

Decision No. 8296

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application
of I. F. WISEMAN for the establish-
ment of water rates.

Application No. 5369.

L. E. Goodman for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION.

O P I N I O N

I. F. Wiseman, applicant herein, is the owner of certain real property and a summer resort located at the mouth of the Russian River in Sonoma County, California, known and designated as Jenner-by-the-Sea. In order to develop the property owned by him and improve the summer resort facilities, applicant has installed a water system, and in this proceeding requests that the Railroad Commission establish rates to be charged consumers for said service.

A public hearing was held in this matter on August 10, 1920, before Examiner Satterwhite at San Francisco. Mr. M. R. MacKall, one of the Commission's hydraulic engineers, submitted a report and appraisal of applicant's water system, which was introduced as evidence and made a part of this proceeding.

It appears that the water supply for this system comes from a perennial stream known as Jenner Creek which flows into the Russian River at Jenner. The water is collected by means of a small concrete dam diverting the water through about 2250 feet of two and three inch steel pipe into two redwood storage tanks

of a capacity of 5000 gallons each. The distribution system consists of approximately 750 feet of two-inch black iron pipe and 3440 feet of one inch galvanized iron pipe. Two-thirds of the pipe of the system is laid upon the surface of the ground. On August 5, 1920, there were 35 active services. Practically the entire plant is built up of second-hand materials and because of its badly depreciated condition, will require a complete renewal in a very few years.

The district served by applicant is a summer resort. Though there are some 35 consumers during the summer months, during the winter the maximum is only eight. For this reason it is necessary for applicant to maintain a water system capable of supplying the requirements of the maximum of population at all times, though they may only reside in this territory during three months of the year and require that water be delivered during that time only.

Because of the fact that the majority of applicant's consumers use water for only a very short period during the year, it is a difficult matter to equitably distribute the expense among the consumers. It is apparent that the few regular consumers requiring service throughout the year from a utility serving a summer resort district, should not be required to pay rates in excess of the value of the service which they receive, to the end that facilities to supply the demand of those consumers who require service for only a short period each year may be kept up and maintained. It appears fair that those consumers requiring service only during a few months of each year should pay a rate which embraces a readiness to serve charge covering the time when water is not delivered although the utility stands ready to render service at any time that it is desired.

Taking into consideration the conditions existing in the

community served and the fact that the territory is now in the early stages of its development, the rate schedule established in the following order is based upon the fair and reasonable value of the service rendered to the community, and is designed to distribute the burden of maintaining the system, insofar as possible, so that each consumer will pay his equitable proportion of the necessary expense.

O R D E R

I. F. WISEMAN having made application to the Railroad Commission as entitled above for the establishment of water rates, a public hearing having been held and the Commission being fully apprised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the rates charged by I. F. Wiseman, insofar as they differ from the rates herein established, are unjust and unreasonable, and that the rates set out in the following order are just and reasonable rates to be charged.

And basing its order upon the foregoing finding of fact and upon the further findings of fact contained in the opinion preceding this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that I. F. Wiseman be and he is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, and thereafter charge the following schedule of rates for all water delivered subsequent to November 1, 1920:

FLAT RATES

Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, entitling the consumer to water for a period of four months.....\$ 7.00

For each additional month..... 1.25

Flat rate for entire year, payable in advance..... 15.00

For residences of two or more floors, which are occupied by separate families or

FLAT RATES

parties, an additional charge for each such floor in excess of one, for each month so occupied, per month.....\$ 0.50

For the irrigation of a lot or lots, not occupied by a house or other residence, for each square yard of surface actually irrigated, per month, (1/2 cent)..... 0.005

METER RATES

Minimum annual charge, payable in advance, entitling consumer to a maximum of 500 cubic feet of water per month for a period of four months.....\$ 6.00

All use during other months, 500 cubic feet or less per month..... 1.00

Next 3500 cubic feet, per 100 cubic feet,..... .15

All use over 4000 cubic feet,..... .10

NOTE:--The above annual charges shall be due and payable on January 1st of each year.

In event any consumer receives service for only a portion of any month, the rates for the full month will be charged.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that I. F. Wiseman be, and he is hereby directed to file with this Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of this order, a schedule of proposed rules and regulations for the operation of said water system, said schedule to be subject to correction or amendment by the Commission and to be filed with the Commission and put into effect as approved within ten days from the date of their approval.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 28th day of October, 1920.

A. B. Loveland
Frank Rubin
H. B. Boudette
Dwight Martin
Commissioners.